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## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

(Currently Amended) A method of diagnosing a malfunction of a clutch of a motor vehicle with [[a]] an automatically shifting transmission, comprising the steps of:

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- a) by means of a first sensor, generating a first electrical signal, which indicates if the motor vehicle is standing still;
- b) by means of a second sensor, generating a second electrical signal, which indicates if a gear in the automatically shifting transmission cannot be synchronized within a prescribed time interval;
- c) by means of a third sensor, generating a third electrical signal, which indicates if the an engine of the motor vehicle is running; and
- d) evaluating the first, second and third electrical signals in a logic AND-member which sets an error flag indicating a malfunction in the <u>a</u> clutch-actuator <u>associated with the clutch</u> if all three signals are affirmative.
- 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the transmission is shifted into neutral when the error flag has been set.
- 3. (Currently Amended) The transmission method of claim 1, wherein the error flag is canceled if a selector lever of the transmission is actuated by a driver of the motor vehicle before a prescribed time limit has elapsed after the error flag has been set.
- 4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for automatically actuating a clutch with a clutch-actuator, the clutch being associated with an automatically shifting transmission of a motor vehicle, and wherein the apparatus is configured to diagnose a malfunction of the clutch and comprises:

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a) a first sensor for generating a first electrical signal that indicates if the motor vehicle is standing still;

- b) a second sensor for generating a second electrical signal that indicates if a gear in the automatically shifting transmission cannot be synchronized within a prescribed time;
- c) a third sensor for generating a third electrical signal that indicates if an engine of the vehicle is running; and
- d) a logic AND-member for evaluating the first, second and third electrical signals and setting an error flag indicating a malfunction in the clutch-actuator if all three signals are affirmative. wherein the apparatus is adapted to perform the method of claim 1.
- 5. (Canceled)